



THE SECRETARY OF TRANSPORTATION  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20590

September 4, 2001

OST 1997-2842

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OST-97-2842-17

DEPT. OF TRANSPORTATION  
01 DEC 13 AM 11:02

The Honorable Michael R. McNulty  
U. S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515-3221

~~Mike:~~  
Dear Congressman McNulty:

Thank you for your letter of July 25 supporting the proposal submitted by Continental Connection for the provision of essential air service to Albany from the Upstate New York communities of Massena and Ogdensburg.

As you may know, proposals for these communities have been filed by CommutAir, d/b/a Continental Connection, and also by Mesa Airlines, the incumbent. Mesa has also filed a proposal to continue providing service at Watertown, New York. These proposals are currently under review and a final decision is expected in the next few weeks. I assure you that the Department will consider all relevant factors in reaching any decision on this matter. We will be happy to forward a copy of our Order to your office when it is issued.

I am placing a copy of your letter and my response in Docket OST-1997-2842, and in the file for contacts outside the record of the case. I appreciate your interest in this matter.

Sincerely yours,

Norman Y. Mineta

COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

RANKING MEMBER  
SUBCOMMITTEE ON SELECT REVENUE MEASURES

SUBCOMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT

WASHINGTON OFFICE:  
2161 RAYBURN BUILDING  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20515-3221  
(202) 225-5076



MICHAEL R. McNULTY  
CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES  
21ST DISTRICT, NEW YORK

July 25, 2001



DISTRICT OFFICES:

ROOM 827  
LEO W. O'BRIEN  
FEDERAL BUILDING  
ALBANY, NY 12207  
(518) 465 0700

U.S. POST OFFICE  
SCHENECTADY, NY 12305  
(518) 374-4547

33 2ND STREET  
TROY, NY 12180  
(518) 271-0822

2490 RIVERFRONT CENTER  
AMSTERDAM, NY 12010  
(518) 843-3400

Hon. Norman Mineta - Secretary  
Department of Transportation  
400 Seventh Street, SW  
Washington, D.C. 20590

Dear Secretary Mineta: *Norm -*

I write to express my support for the proposal submitted to the Office of Essential Air Service by Continental Connections for new air service between Massena and Ogdensburg, New York to Albany, New York.

Should this proposal be approved, Albany International Airport would become the service hub for the northern counties of New York State.

A change to Albany would provide a tremendous benefit to the communities of northern New York State. As you may be aware, the Massena and Ogdensburg airports are losing one-third of their potential passenger base to nearby Canadian airports. This loss has an obvious impact on our northern New York communities. A change in the current air service pattern is necessary to provide future economic growth to northern New York.

In addition, the geographic location of Albany offers more convenience and accessibility to the Massena-Ogdensburg area -- and Albany offers a more competitive and attractive fare schedule.

I respectfully request that Continental Connections' application be approved -- consistent with current law, agency rules and regulations.

Sincerely, .

Michael R. McNulty  
Member of Congress

MRM/dat